

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 166891 TOSEC 070025

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: UNEF: LETTER FROM EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO UN
SECRETARY GENERAL: PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SISCO

1. ROY, HAL AND I HAVE JUST READ THE EGYPTIAN LETTER TO
THE SECRETARY GENEPAL WHICH HAS BEEN REPEATED TO YOU.

2. THE KEY PARAGRAPHS ARE THE FOLLOWING TWO:

3. QUOTE. WHILE EGYPT DOES NOT CONSENT TO FURTHER RENEW
THE MANDATE OF UNEF, SHE IS NOT AGAINST THE PROPER USE OF
THE FORCE.EGYPT OBJECTS TO THE USE OF THE FORCE AND ITS
PRESENCE BY ISRAEL AS A MEANS TO MAINTAIN THE STATE OF
QUOTE NO WAR NO PEACE UNQUOTE AND THE PERPETUATION OF THE
OCCUPATION OF EGYPTIAN TERRITORY IN DEFIANCE OF THE PUR-
POSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER AND ACCEPTED NORMS
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

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4. QUOTE. EGYPT, HOWEVER, DOES NOT PREVENT THE COUNCIL FROM ACTING IN CONFIRMITY WITH ITS PREROGATIVES UNDER THE UN CHARTER SO THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT MISINTERPRET EITHER THE

PHYSICAL PRESENCE OR THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE UNEF, ESTABLISHED TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THIS STRATEGIC AND HIGHLY SENSITIVE AREA. UNQUOTE.

5. WE WANT TO GIVE YOU OUR QUICK ANALYSIS. OUR JUDGEMENT IS THAT THIS IS AN OPEN INVITATION BY THE EGYPTIANS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO GO AHEAD AND RENEW THE MANDATE AND PROBABLY TO INCLUDE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION SOME KIND OF A REFERENCE TO PROGRESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECURITY RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. I THINK THE FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS IS TO GO TO CAIRO, IF WE BY TOMORROW HAVE NOT ALREADY HEARD FROM FAHMY, AND TO ASK THE EGYPTIANS JUST WHAT THEY INTEND WITH RESPECT TO THIS LATEST MOVE. OUR DEEP CONCERN IS THAT THIS WILL HAVE A VERY NEGATIVE IMPACT IN ISRAEL; THEY COULD GO SO FAR AS TO TAKE THE LINE THAT THEY WOULD REFUSE TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS FURTHER UNTIL THIS MATTER IS CLEARED UP ON THE GROUND THAT QUOTE THEY WILL NOT NEGOTIATE UNDER PRESSURE OR DEADLINES UNQUOTE. IF YOU AGREE, I WILL WANT TO CALL SHALEV IN THE MORNING AND TELL HIM THAT WE ARE STUDYING THE MATTER AND WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THEIR VIEWS AS WELL. THIS WOULD BE A WAY OF KEEPING THEM COOL WITHOUT DIRECTLY TELLING THEM TO KEEP COOL ON THIS MATTER.

6. MOREOVER, I BELIEVE WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE IN THE COUNCIL TO PRODUCE THE RIGHT KIND OF RESOLUTION ON UNEF EXTENSION, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE EGYPTIANS, ONCE THE RESOLUTION HAS BEEN ADOPTED, WILL ANNOUNCE THEIR QUOTE CONSENT UNQUOTE TO IT. I BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SUCH A RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED BEFORE THE TWENTY-FOURTH.

7. THE SUGGESTED PRESS LINE FOLLOWS: QUOTE. WE HAVE THIS UNDER STUDY, AND WILL BE DISCUSSING IT WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, SO I DON'T WANT TO SAY MUCH PUBLICLY. OBVIOUSLY WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE UNEF CONTINUE

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AND WOULD CONSIDER THAT ITS REMOVAL WOULD BE A MOST UNFORTUNATE STEP. WE ALSO CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE CONTINUING PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SC RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. UNQUOTE.

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